



# County of San Diego

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## **Medical Director's Update for Base Station Physicians' Committee January, 2015**

**My thanks** to everyone in the system who offered up thoughts and prayers after the deaths of my brother David and his wife Lissa. I am thankful for all your support.

**EMS extends its** condolences to long time San Diego medic Rick Burger, whose son Ryan, age 29, died suddenly earlier this month. Ryan was an EMT and paramedic in San Diego also, but for several years was a medic in Austin, Texas for Travis County EMS. A memorial service will take place January 23 at Our Lady of Grace church in El Cajon at 11 am.

**The Base Physicians Committee will consider changes** to the treatment guidelines today. There is a variety of suggestions for changes.

**The influenza/virus season** worsened starting several weeks ago with a sudden upsurge in calls in the system. It will be some time before we know if influenza itself is responsible or a variety of other illnesses. This year's flu vaccine is not well matched to the type of influenza seen, which will make the vaccine less effective.

None the less, it has been quite busy in the field. There has been off and on hospital bypass. More difficult are off load delays. These tie up field units at the hospital. One of the prime reasons is holding admitted patients in the emergency room awaiting an inpatient bed. Field personnel should talk with hospital staff when there is an off load delay to minimize the delay and reinforce to the ED staff the importance of getting back in service. For extended off load delays not resolved by the ED personnel, you may contact the EMS duty officer for assistance.

**New this year, County Health Officer Dr. Wilma Wooten** has issued a declaration requiring health care workers, including EMS personnel, to have either current influenza vaccination or use a surgical mask while working with patients. This applies to First Responding medics and EMTs, to ambulance personnel, and other EMS personnel in contact with patients. This is regardless of the patient chief complaint.

**We are seeing an outbreak of** measles due to the number of children not vaccinated. Measles is one of the most contagious viruses. Patients usually are unvaccinated. Symptoms include high fever, cough, runny nose, and conjunctivitis. A maculopapular rash develops 3-5 days after the prodrome. In the era before vaccination there were about 500 deaths/year among 500,000 affected people with others left with neurologic complications. In the field, a suspected case should have a mask applied and the ED warned about the possible case so the patient can be immediately isolated. More information is available at the CDC website, <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/>.

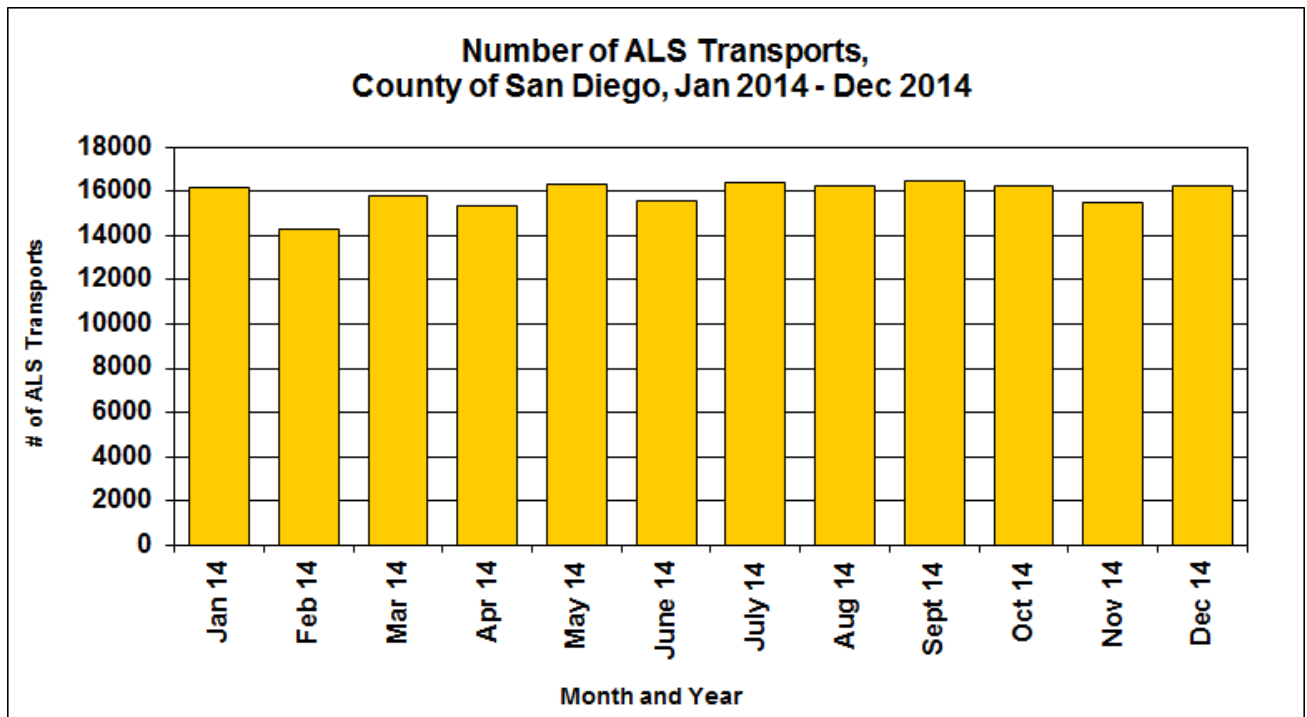
**Ebola preparedness continues.** Hospitals are placed in one of three categories, treatment, assessment and frontline. The treatment center is UCSD Hillcrest Medical Center where an isolation treatment unit has been constructed. Rady Children's would do assessment of any children with possible Ebola, and transfer a positive patient to UCLA. Transport of possible Ebola patients would be by specific ambulance teams from AMR or RM/San Diego, along with Hazmat.

**Sheriff's naloxone** project continues and will be expanded to units countywide. This project gets naloxone in the hands of deputies for use in suspected narcotic overdoses. The preliminary use shows accurate assessments and successful use of the intranasal preparation. EMS responds in usual fashion and assumes care of patient. Included is a referral to treatment.

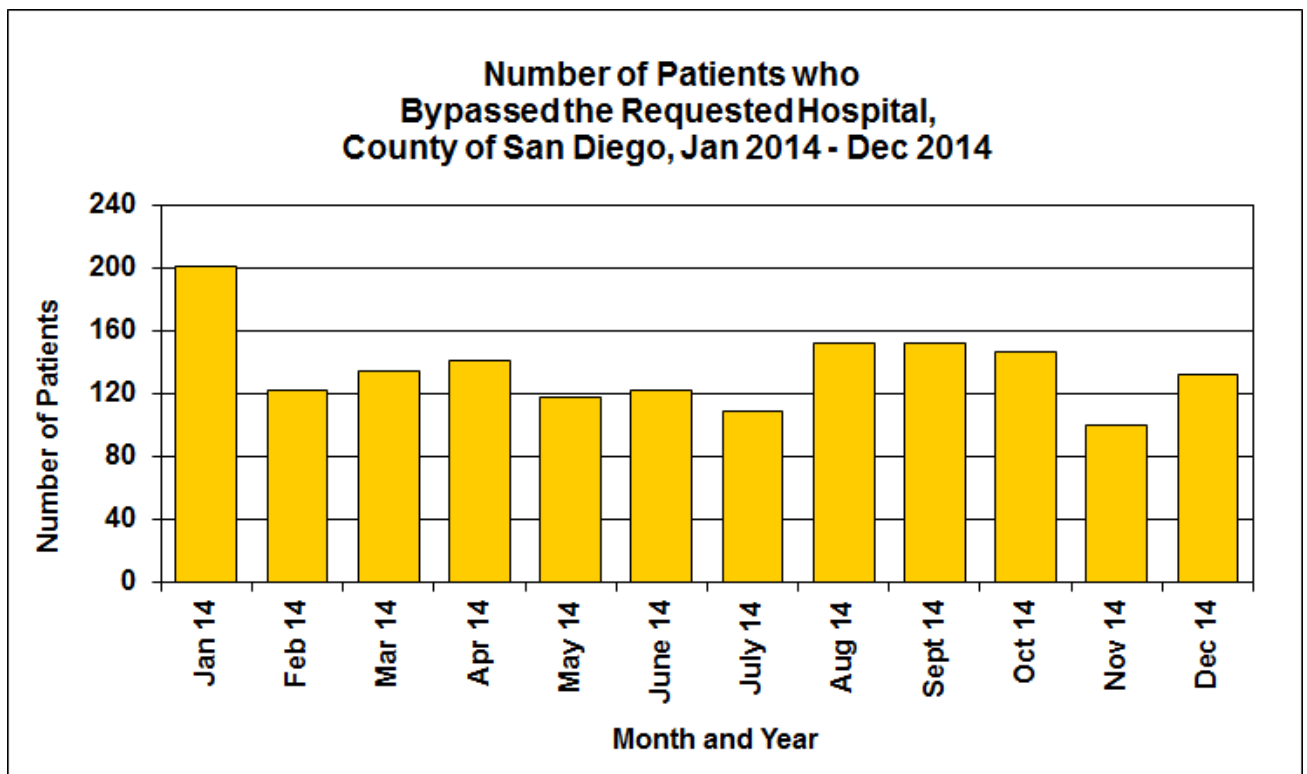
**The Community Paramedicine** project continues with training at the Carlsbad and San Diego sites. The state has encouraged more uniformity between the state projects and that has been addressed.

**Fallbrook Hospital** closed as scheduled, but the hoped for urgent care clinic didn't appear. North County Fire is seeing an increase in transports, which they continue to evaluate. A number of patients are now getting their care in Temecula. This results in transports to Temecula Valley Hospital.

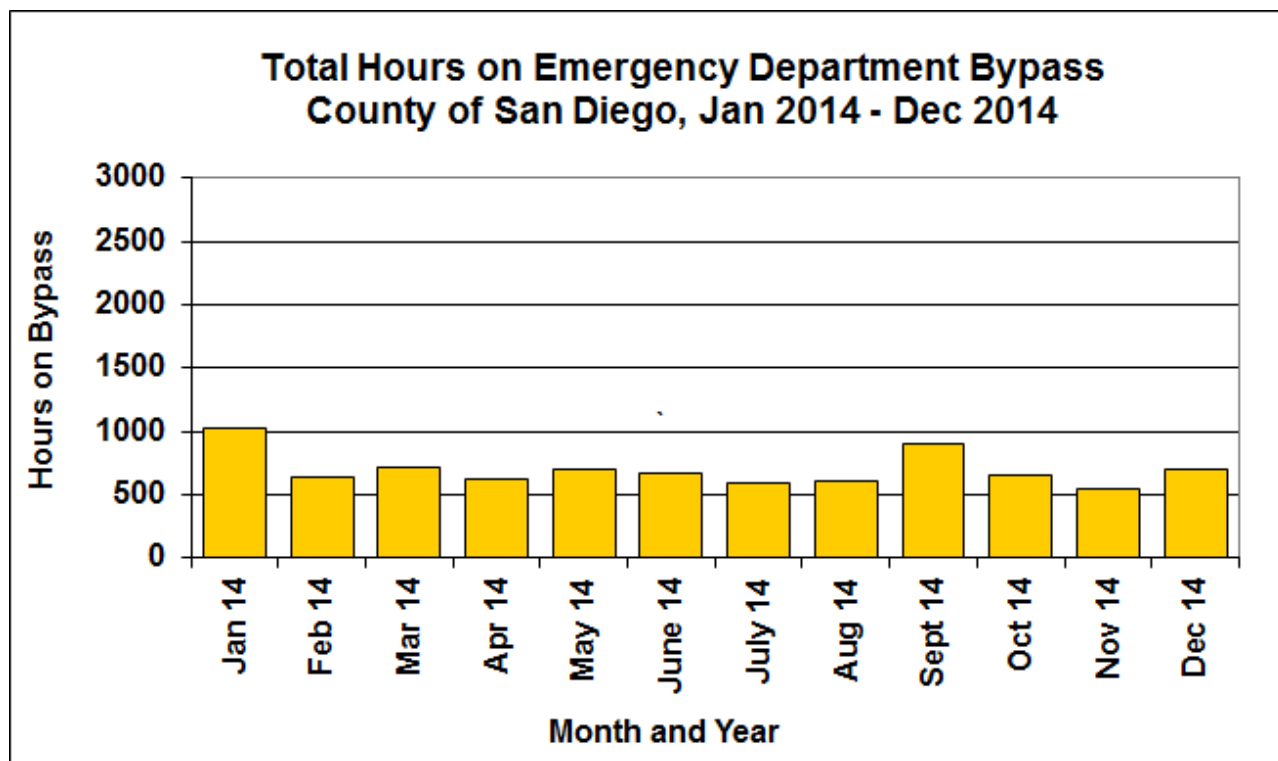
**The trauma centers will** undergo their evaluation by the American College of Surgeons between now and May. This review takes place every three years.



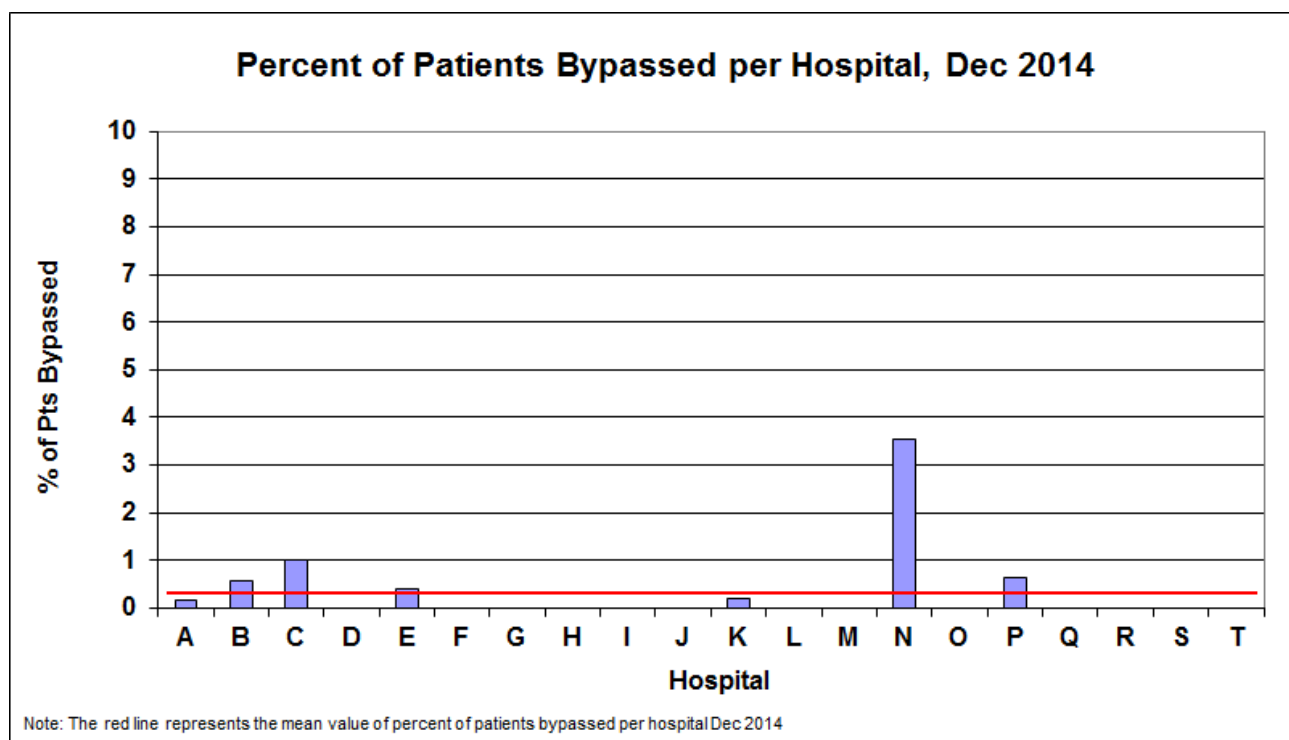
Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Jan 2014 –Dec 2014 Note: Numbers based on Run Outcomes of Transport by Unit and Transport by Other



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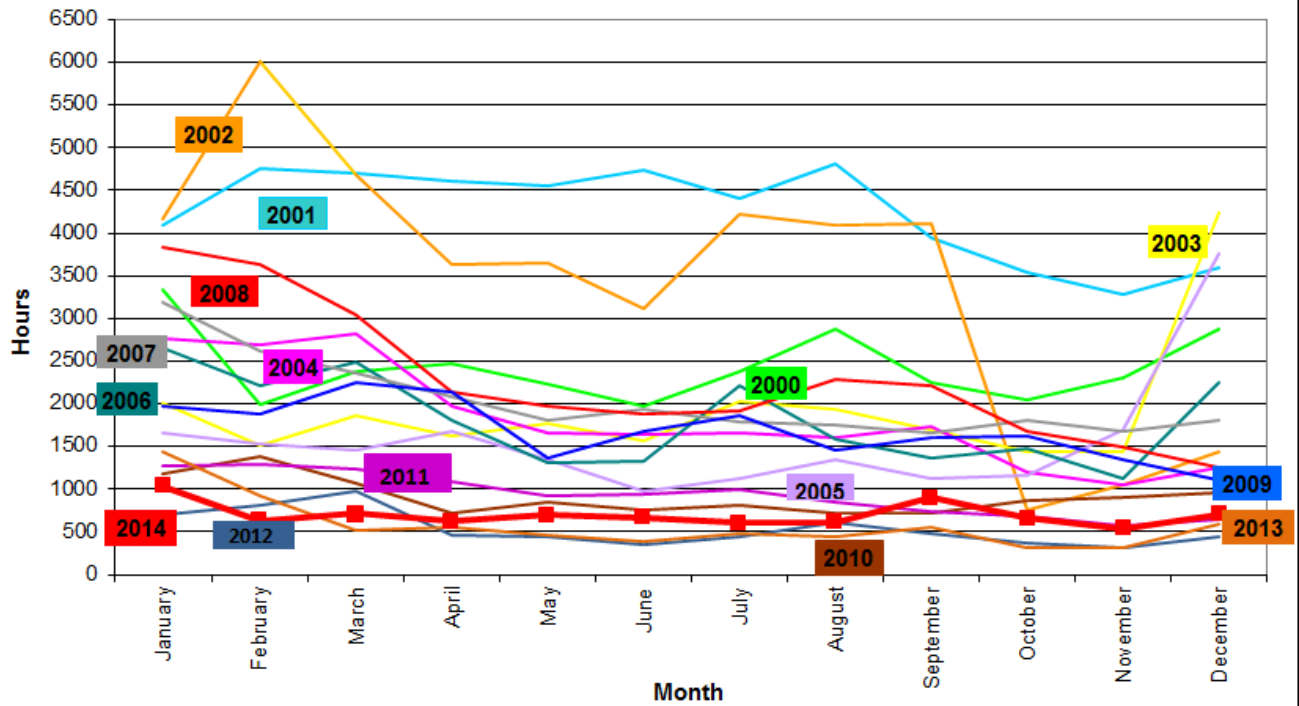


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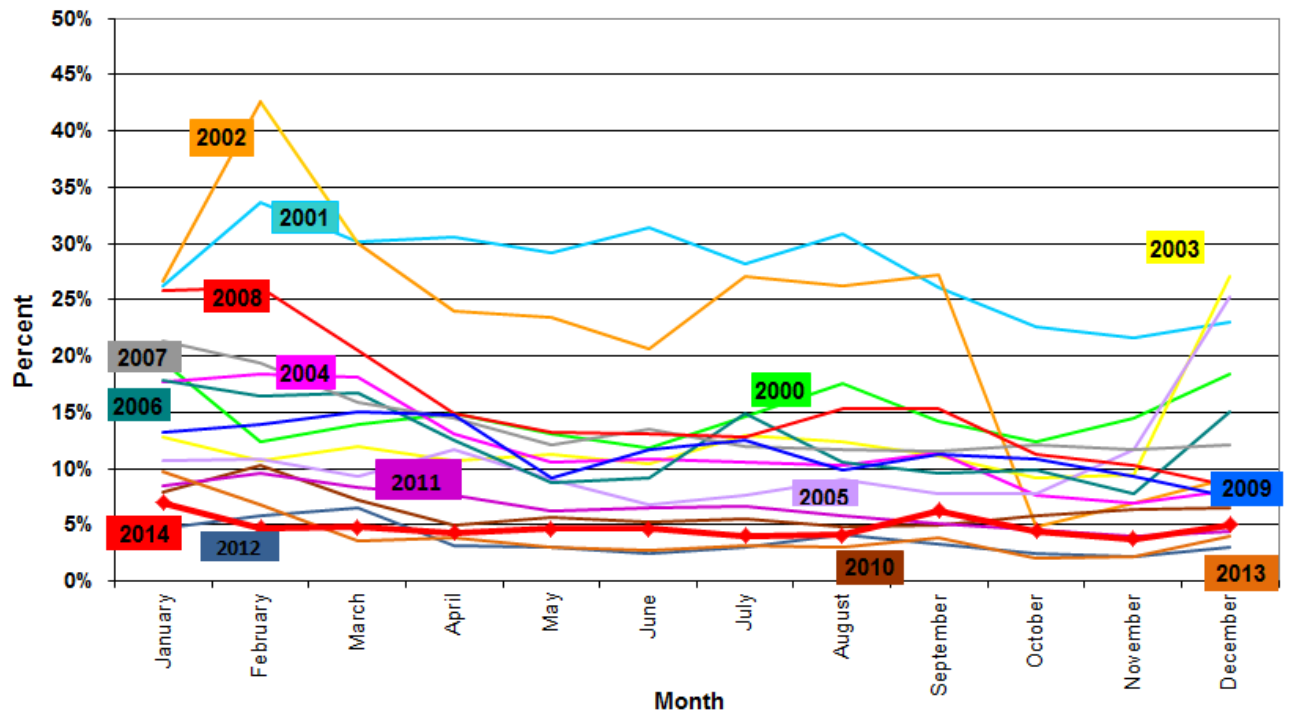
Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Dec 2014  
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### Total Hours on ED Saturation by Month and Year, San Diego County, Jan 2000 - Dec 2014



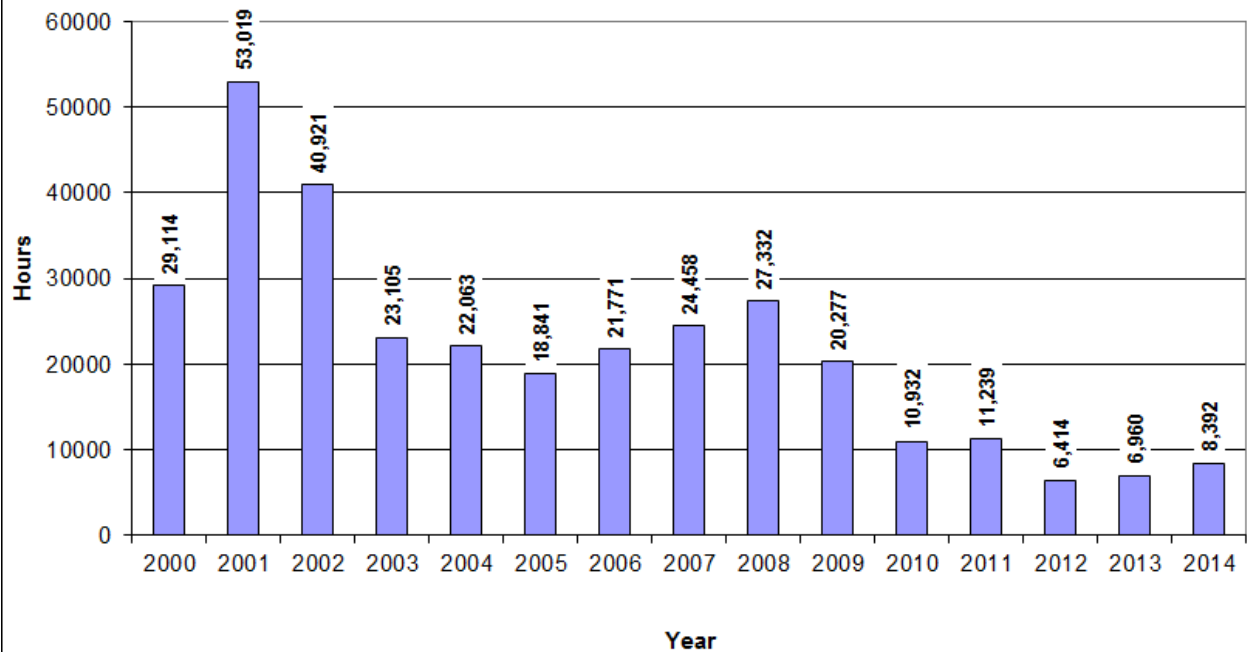
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### Overall Percent Hours on ED Sat Per Month and Year San Diego County, Jan 2000 - Dec 2014



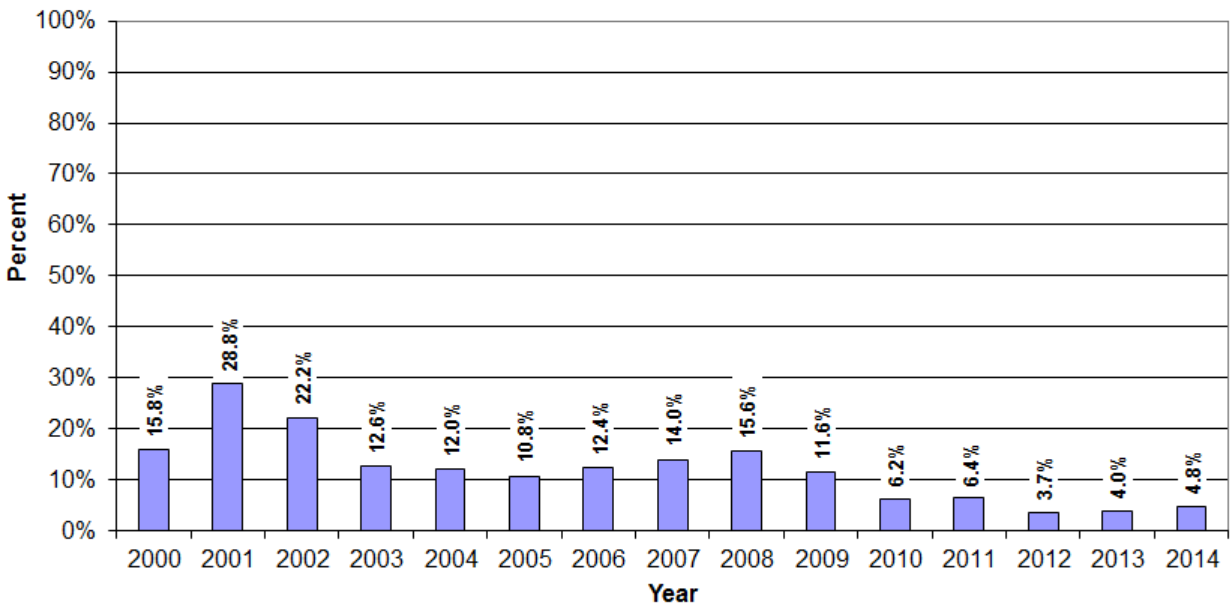
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### Total Hours on ED Saturation by Year, San Diego County, 2000-2014



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